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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL V. FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1944 No. 45

WELL DONE

GENERAL MONTGOMERY

THE battle has been fierce. Much has been achieved. Our gains have been definite and concrete. The Allied armies in Normandy have good ground for solid satisfaction. We have taken 54,000 prisoners. We have given the Germans tremendous pummelling. We are firm and secure. Well done Well done, indeed

GENERAL MONTGOMERY, in a broadcast to his troops in Normandy, on Tuesday, July 11

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[NOTE.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

BE PREPARED FOR LONG AND BITTER FIGHTING

"I do not completely write off the possibility of a crack in German morale somewhere along the line. But in a country so completely dominated by Gestapo methods, it is false to base any real expectations on the hope that Germany will crack internally. The Allies must be prepared in all their operations right round the European perimeter for long and bitter fighting. The fighting will be of the most strenuous character and there will be heavy losses. The present general picture of natural optimism must be sobered by the very definite consideration that the Allies will have to fight for every foot they gain—both in local areas and in the broad strategic field."

—GENERAL EISENHOWER, *Supreme Allied Commander, in a statement in London, on Tuesday, July 11.*

❖

AN INSPIRATION

"On this the seventh anniversary of your country's resistance against the brutal and unprovoked attack of the Japanese aggressor, the entire American people do honour to the spirit of the Chinese nation. Through seven long years, the people of China, under your steadfast leadership, have dedicated themselves to the cause of freedom with heroism and determination, undaunted by increasing trials and sacrifices. China's example has been an inspiration to the United Nations. The rising tide of victories in Europe and the Far East is hastening the day when the Chinese and the Allied armies will sweep the invader from your country, and China will assume her rightful role in the common task of building peace and prosperity for all. We rejoice in the deep understanding and friendship between our two peoples, long tested by years and now proven, and cemented on the field of battle. That friendship and close fellowship among the United Nations must be the basis of fundamental goodwill, and mutual trust. That can alone assure the future welfare of mankind."

—PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT *in his message to* MARSHAL CHIANG KAI-SHEK, *on the occasion of the Seventh Anniversary of the Chinese War against Japan's Aggression.*

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RUSSIA : THE STRAIGHTENED HORSE-SHOE

THE Red Army is marching from success to success. Referring to the pace of its progress, *Reuter's* Military Commentator says that it is now exceeding the fastest German blitz either in France in 1940 or in Russia in 1941, and points out that within a week's time it may reach Riga, Memel or Koenigsberg. Already the Red Army has crossed into Latvia and is fanning out beyond the border, and it is stated that the speed of its advance has created new records for the Soviet-German War. At this stage, let us retrace our steps and see what happened in White Russia, where the Germans were strongly entrenched.

WHEN the Red Army launched its offensive against German positions in White Russia on June 23, a day after the third anniversary of Hitler's attack on Russia, it was roughly 150 and 120 miles away to the north-east and south-east respectively of Minsk, the capital of White Russia, and it faced a chain of fortresses at Vitebsk, Orsha, Mogilev and Zhlobin. In the north, Vitebsk was captured by the forces of General Bagramayan. Five German infantry divisions were reported to have been encircled in this area. In the south of the German White Russian line, General Zhakarov successfully widened the breaches east of Mogilev, and another Russian column advanced towards Bobruisk and captured it on the seventh day of the offensive.

Dittmar's Doubt

WITHIN five days of its offensive the Red Army had taken Lepel, 80 miles north-east of Minsk, and Osipovichi, 60 miles to the south-east. In other words, it advanced 70 and 60 miles respectively on two sectors in six days. The greatness of this advance lies in the fact that the Red Army took in its stride the chain of strong German fortresses which we mentioned above. This spectacular Russian advance kept the Germans guessing whether the Soviet operations in White Russia represented a large-scale offensive or not. On June 29 Lieutenant-General Dittmar was still wondering "whether or not this Soviet offensive on the central sector of the Eastern Front could be considered a large-scale offensive".

THIS wonder was due to the fact that the Germans considered the southern part of the Soviet front as very important covering, as it does, the approaches to the Hungarian plain and to Rumania with its oil wells, which were always very important, and which are now more important than ever after the smashing of many synthetic oil plants in Germany by Allied bombers. It was the expectation that the Russians would launch a large-scale offensive only in the south that made Dittmar doubt whether the advance in White Russia really constituted the Red Army's major effort this summer. The Germans were secretly hoping that the Red Army's blows this summer would not synchronize with the opening of the great Allied assault from the West and they therefore switched a considerable part of their armour to Italy and Normandy. They thought if at all Russia launched the offensive it would be only in the direction of Lwow and Bucharest.

Calculations Upset

THEIR calculations were completely upset by the hammer-blows of the Red Army in White Russia. Soviet strategy in this area developed into a bold enveloping movement against Minsk. The forces under Marshal Rokossovsky and General Zhakarov converged from the south-west and north-east respectively towards the White Russian capital, and captured it.

THE capture of Minsk, which is the gateway to Northern Poland and the Baltic States, may be stated to have straightened the northern bulge of the fighting line. Before the Red Army's offensive in White Russia began, this line began in the north, in Esthonia, about 80 miles west of Leningrad, and zigzagged down to a point north of Vitebsk in White Russia. Here it curved inwards like a horse-shoe turned on its side, and then bulged out the other way, towards the Rumanian frontier, away from Russia, and then curled back again to Odessa, the Black Sea port. The straightening of the bulge would be helpful to the advance of the Red Army due west to Brest-Litovsk and Warsaw with their left flank protected by the Pripet Marshes.

ALREADY, the Soviet successes in the central or the White Russian sector have had serious repercussions on German positions immediately above and

below the present fighting area. In an Order of the Day issued last night (July 13), Marshal Stalin has announced the capture of Vilna, the German base covering the approaches to East Prussia. The capture was made by troops of the Third White Russian Front, which liberated the capital of the Soviet Lithuanian Republic by the strategy of encirclement. The importance of the City lies in the fact that it is a communication centre linking White Russia, Poland and the Baltic States. It is the southernmost of the Pskov-Dvinsk-Vilna chain of German fortresses guarding the three Baltic Republics, and is about 90 miles from the East Prussian frontier and 190 miles from Koenigsberg.

The Russian Flood

THE fall of Vilna seems to have unnerved the Germans, for the German News Agency declared, "The situation is serious. All is now at stake. The Russian flood threatens our holy German land.' The threat has come nearer to Germany, because the Red Army's task was rendered much easier than before by the opening of operations on the Western Front, Allied advance in Italy, the establishment of American air bases on Soviet soil, and the great flow of Anglo-American aid. The flood is gathering strength and momentum, and in due course, it will reach the land of the Nazis and make them rue the day they started this war.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

China in her Eighth Year of War—"Inspiration to United Nations"

The Sino-Japanese war has entered on its eighth year last week. In a telegram to Marshal CHIANG KAI-SHEK, President ROOSEVELT has paid a great tribute to China. "Through seven long years," he said, "the people of China have dedicated themselves to the cause of freedom with heroism and determination, undaunted by increasing trials and sacrifices." He added, "China's example has been an inspiration to the United Nations." Referring to the course of military operations, President ROOSEVELT observed that the victories in Europe and the Far East were hastening the day when the enemy would be swept from China.

It is of interest to roughly trace the course of different battles in the Chinese theatre of war. First let us take the Kwangteh Battle. Kwangteh is a communication centre situated 85 miles south-east of Nanking. The Japanese launched a large-scale drive in Anhwei with a view to preventing the Chinese troops or guerillas from concentrating sufficient forces to threaten the Japanese stronghold in the triangle formed by Nanking-Shanghai-Hangchow. The Chinese withdrew first and then, when the Japanese communication lines were sufficiently extended, they struck back. The Japs were forced to withdraw. This was in October 1943.

The second is the Changteh Battle. Changteh is the gateway of Changsha, the Capital of Hunan. In November last year, the Japs drove south from the Yangtse towards Changteh and succeeded in encircling the city by using paratroops, artillery and aircraft. The siege of the city lasted for ten days.

GENERAL MONTGOMERY HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN NORMANDY— General Montgomery speaking to War Correspondents when he held his first Press conference after the landing in Normandy.

The Chinese 57th Division which was defending it against great odds was reduced to 300. Changteh fell on December 3, but six days afterwards the Chinese under the command of HSUEH YUEH launched a counter-attack, and drove the Japanese out of Changteh back to their original positions. This happened on December 21, 1943.

* * *

Honan Battle—General Chennault's Air Support

The Honan Battle is the third in our series. The Japanese opened an offensive in the Honan area at the end of April 1944, with the object of opening up a direct line of communication with Hankow and obtaining the gateway rail line to the Province of Shansi by capturing the Tungkwan Pass. They failed in both their objectives on account of the counter-offensives of the Chinese. But the issue of this battle is still hanging in the balance. The successful defence of the Chinese in the Honan area has been due to the air support given by General CHENNAULT's combined Chinese and American forces. Unless the Japs are able to neutralise this air support they cannot achieve anything here.

The fourth battle that deserves our attention is the Canton-Hankow

HARK! THE KNELL OF NAZISM!

—*Specially drawn for the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW

Railway Battle. It is the biggest and most determined effort of the enemy since 1938 to improve his position in China. The enemy has a threefold object to achieve in this battle. He wants to open rail and other communications between the Yangtse Valley and the Canton-Hongkong area and close the wide corridor from the Fukien Coast into Western China, as eventually the Chinese forces can establish contact with the British and American sea-borne forces on the South China Coast; he also wants to ensure that Japanese defence positions in S uth China are reinforced and supplied by other ways than coastal ship ing, which is vulnerable to air and submarine attacks. This battle is very impor ant to the defence of the Japanese home islands, because from air bases in this area the Allies can strike Japan. That is why the enemy is trying his best to take Hongyang, the biggest American air base in Hunan.

Yunnan—A diversionary Battle

The fifth battle is a diversionary battle opened in the Yunnan area by the Chinese so as to divert the enemy's strength from North Burma. Another object is to effect a junction with General STILWELL's forces so that the proposed land communications with China along the Ledo Road could be more swiftly gained and securely held. The Chinese have made a fair progress in this battle.

As we look back and then look ahead, we see that in her eighth year of war, China still continues to have her will to resist wholly unimpaired. This marvellous spirit of resistance against aggression is being helped and sustained not only by Allied aid to China, but also by Allied successes in other theatres of war.

"Sacking" of Rundstedt—Implications of Change in German Command

Why did HITLER "sack" his Supreme Commander in Western Europe? A possible reason is that Field Marshal VON RUNDSTEDT has failed to throw back the Allied Expeditionary Force into the sea, as German propaganda boasted, would be done. A more likely reason seems to be that this was made an excuse to get rid of an anti-Nazi. Though he is the best all-round German Commander, he is regarded as the most prominent anti-Nazi among the senior officers and the only one who might possibly try to overthrow HITLER. It seems that two years ago he came to the conclusion that Germany would be defeated. His anti-Nazi outlook did not, however, affect his desire to save his military caste and force from destruction. He had always been surrounded by fanatical Nazis—his lieutenant, ROMMEL, being one of

them. Now the dismissal of RUNDSTEDT is intended to strengthen the Nazi party's grip over Germany, though obviously he was the scapegoat for the failure of German plans for western front operations.

THE SICKLE

(*By* R.G.)

They sowed the seed endurance
And now their sickle reaps
An overflowing harvest
Where the dead soldier sleeps
And living brother keeps
His legacy, revenge.

The sickle for the reaping
Is sharp with pain and hate:
A million shattered homesteads
Add all a nation's weight
To strokes as strong as fate.
Fast fall the sheaves.

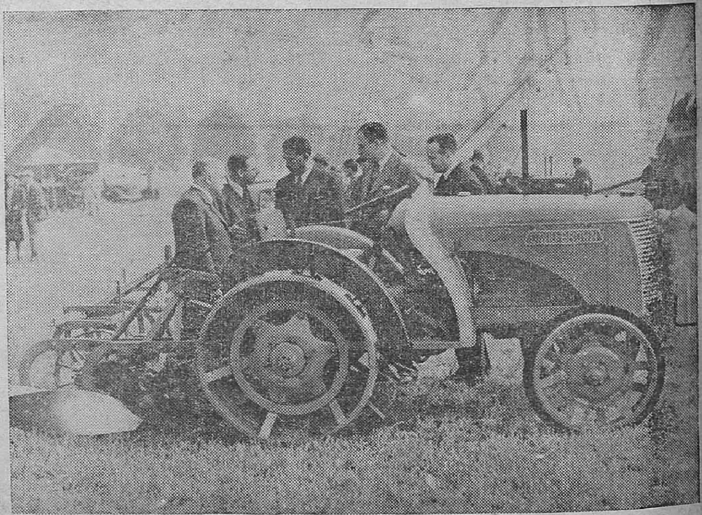
The hands that hold the sickle
Shall not grow soft nor tire
Until the harvest's gathered:
Whetting its edge of fire
Not rest nor ease desire
The workers in the field.

Clean to the utter margin
The blade shall tumble down
The ruffians and the robbers
That ravaged farm and town
And cities of renown.
The blade is sharp enough.

Endurance was the sowing;
The crop is punishment.
The steady-swinging sickle
Shall not its wrath relent
Till justice is content
With executed doom.

British infantry advance past an exposed spot as they consolidate the previous day's gains on Tilly-Caen road. German snipers were active here.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT FOLLOWS THE ARMIES TO EUROPE.—Rapidly following the weapons of first attack some hundreds of cranes, tractors, bulldozers, etc., to speed up the unloading and stacking of material on the beach-heads. Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, inspects the loading on to an L.S.T. of a caterpiller crane with a 60 feet jib at a secret base in Britain.



INDIA'S REPRESENTATIVE IN WAR CABINET VISITS AGRICULTURAL DEMONSTRATION.—Sir Firoz Khan Noon, one of India's Representatives in the War Cabinet, recently saw a demonstration of agricultural machinery at the Oaklands Farm Institute, Hertfordshire. Himself an agriculturist, Sir Firoz Khan Noon when received by the members of the Hertfordshire War Agricultural Executive Committee, spoke to the agricultural engineers of India's need for agricultural equipment and the necessity for making it to suit India's requirements.

Sir Firoz Khan Noon, accompanied by members of the Hertfordshire War Agricultural Executive Committee, inspects agricultural machinery.

General Montgomery talks to nursing sisters at a hospital near Bayeux.

Mr. and Mrs. Churchill watching a fighter overhead during a tour of southern England anti-flying bomb defences.

SESHIAH, THE CURIOUS VILLAGER

(*By* R.G.)

CANTO II—*Fourth Instalment*

The Party Member gave a scream --
"Foul mouthed fellow, don't blaspheme!
Our Party is a sacred thing
Whose praises Press and angels sing;
To worship it is true religion,
To criticize is blindness Stygian.
Our leader from Himalayan blunders
Builds great designs and greater wonders
Than all the seven that excited
The ancient world; and our benighted
Poor country will become a Zion,
No more exploited by the lion,
When every man his charka owns
And cries aloud in feeling tones
'Party-ki-jai! Party-ki-jai!'"

To which Seshiah made reply
"You say you have the recipe
For perfect freedom: that may be --
I only know that at this time
There's nothing in the least sublime
In what you do: in fact your fuss
Is just a bit ridiculous
Not many years ago, recall,
Your leaders were the first to bawl
And say the British were a scurvy
Riff-raff of cowards weak and nervy
Because they would not fight to save
The Abyssinian from the grave:
You swore you could not stand aggression
And international oppression,
And made the whole wide world suppose
You were the first of Fascism's foes.
Now that the British lion turns
And with a righteous anger burns
Because his tail is too much twisted
From having wagged but not resisted,
And you no longer are denied
The chance to prove you truly cried
For international righteousness,
The chance to help sweep up the mess --
What do you do, you pretty fellow?
You show yourself not black but yellow!
And dodge responsibility
To fight for all men's liberty.
Good Sir, good-bye; and may I never
Be so dishonourably clever."

PRELUDE TO PEACE

By SIR ROBERT DENNISTON, *Kt.*

SOMEBODY, I cannot remember who it was, coined a good phrase when he referred to "The Tyranny of Words." There are so many high-sounding phrases, glibly employed in our ordinary everyday conversation, which become household words, and yet only touch the fringe of the vast problems which they set out to describe. In this category we can, I think, place the terms "Post-War Reconstruction" and "Rehabilitation." I am not at all sure that the title of this talk, "Prelude to Peace: Rehabilitation" isn't rather contradictory. Let me call my dictionary to my aid. Prelude "suggests that which is preliminary or introductory to a larger or more important work or movement." So far so good, but if, in this context the word "Prelude" means anything, it means that we are dealing with subjects which arise while we are still at war and before peace has been declared. Now what does my admirable dictionary say about "Rehabilitation"? "To invest or clothe again with some right authority or dignity; to restore to a former capacity; to reinstate." Obviously, therefore, a post-war problem. But don't we want to do more than "restore to a former capacity"? Were pre-war conditions so enviable that we want to revert to them? So I am going to take liberties with the text and deal more with reconstruction than with rehabilitation, so far as one can deal in 15 minutes with a problem which will probably take a generation to solve. There is a grain of truth in the apocryphal story of the lady who, at a dinner party, was heard to say to her husband "Really George, I've never been so humiliated in my life, everybody has a post-war reconstruction plan except you." This subject is such a vast one that I rather sympathize with George, but we all of us can think of things which we should like to see disappear in a post-war world.

FREEDOM FROM WANT

Now it would be stupid to imagine that after the war we shall emerge into a better world in the twinkling of an eye. There will be much heavy going and many mistakes. Who do you think has the biggest claim to live in freedom from want, to my mind the greatest of all freedoms. Obviously the serving sailor, soldier or airmen. They are fighting and dying for you and me. Do you remember that tragic slogan after the last war and the assurance given to our fighting forces that they would return to "a land fit for heroes to live in"? An admirable concept, but it remained a concept. Mind you, we don't want a world fit for heroes to lounge in; neither would our service men want it, for idleness and happiness are not synonymous terms. But we do want employment for our ex-service men which will guarantee them against the spectre of want.

PROBLEM OF EX-SERVICE MEN

How shall we stand as regards our ex-service men in this Presidency? Madras has supplied more men to the army than any other province except the Punjab, and there are at the present time rather more than a quarter of a million Madrassis serving with the forces. The "Grow More Food" Campaign will survive the war—it will be madness if it does not—and it should be able to absorb a considerable number of men. There are large numbers of Madrassis at present driving motor transport—the figure would surprise you. On the assumption that competition between road and rail is a thing of the past, though it may yet rear its ugly head again, there should be plenty of employment available. Roads will require to be built and existing roads re-conditioned and here again is employment for many, but co-ordination between road and rail is essential. It may be taken for granted that industry will expand after the war, but new machinery may not be readily obtainable, and what to do with our returning technicians is a problem. There are doubtless a number of post-war plans, irrigation schemes and what not already being considered by Government, and industry and commerce will unquestionably expand, but there is a need for some organization which will tide the returning service man over the period between demobilization and the finding of employment.

As regards the Indian Navy and Air Force the question is not so acute. Both these services are in their infancy (though both have proved themselves to be lusty children) and it may well be that most of their existing personnel will elect to carve out a career for themselves after the war in one or other of the services.

ANOTHER SIDE

But post-war reconstruction has another side to it than looking after the returned soldier, and the ultimate aim is the raising of the standard of living of the millions of this country. This must necessarily be a gradual process and experience has already shown that amongst the illiterate populace changes are regarded with the eye of suspicion. The urge to earn more money and thus improve the standard of living is absent, and the labourer's chief desideratum is leisure. There is a pathetic contentment which has little thought above subsistence, provided subsistence is combined with ample leisure. Sufficient food, sufficient clothing and a roof are all that is looked for; better food, better clothing and better housing seem to be beyond the labourer's ambition.

There are many changes one would like to see in a reconstructed world and one or two of them spring to my mind. There are two classes of the community whose lot I should like to see bettered, hospital nurses, and school teachers. The nurse's case shrieks to High Heaven for redress. She works long hours for the most meagre of wages and it is to me a most devastating thought that so noble a calling should be so parsimoniously rewarded After all the nurse's job is to relieve suffering and to save life and a high degree of training and efficiency is called for. At the present time the ridiculously low standard of wages acts as a deterrent to recruitment, and it seems not unreasonable to ask that those responsible for the preservation of life should themselves receive a living wage.

The moulding of the character of the young is, you may think, a matter of some importance, and Germany has shown us what can be done when you "catch 'em young." It is true that the young Hun is a horrifying product of a revolting system but he has been trained on the wrong lines. Cannot as much be done if the youth of a country is trained on the right lines? Then why should not the people who train them—the school masters—be paid a salary in accordance with the importance of their task. I heard of a case the other day, not in this Presidency, where the headmaster of a school was drawing the same salary as one of my office peons.

—REHABILITATION

THE COST

It is all very well, you will say, to generalize like this, but think of the cost. Of course the cost will be immense, but if this better world is to come about something will have to be done. In war time Government announces a new loan and in half an hour it is over-subscribed. Cannot something of the same kind be done in peace time? I believe there is no more important factor in the future of the world's well-being than the training of the world's youth.

Another thing I should like to see in this country is the abolition of the man-propelled vehicle. There are jobs for beasts of burden and there are jobs for human being, and the pulling or pushing of hand-cart does not, to my mind, come within the latter category.

I often reflect on the outlook of the young Indian in search of employment, and sometimes wonder if a somewhat more robust approach to his prospective employer would not serve him in better stead. It has been my fortune, whether good or bad I will leave you to decide, to receive some thousands of applications for employment, and almost without exception they might have been written by one and the same person. Seventy-five per cent of them start "with due respect and humble submission" and 99 per cent of them use the word "Humble." What is there to be humble about in searching for employment? To earn one's own living should be a source of pride rather than of humility. I suppose this anæmic formula dates back to the days of the old East India Company. By the same token I perjure my soul every time I write to a Government official and tell him "I have the honour to be his obedient servant". I have the greatest respect for the Government official, but I don't regard it as a particular honour to write to him and have probably not the slightest intention of obeying him. He, in his turn, thinks it no honour to reply to me (if he did I should get his reply quicker) and would laugh at the notion of obeying me. Isn't it all stupid? What has this, you will say, to do with post-war reconstruction? Very little I admit, except that I do not regard the retention of a red-tape factory as a pre-requisite to post-war prosperity.

TIME FOR INITIATIVE AND DRIVE

If ever there were a time for initiative and drive it will be after the war, and there will be room for trustful and ambitious young men. There are so many who, once they have obtained employment, are content just to be employed. I am fond of a parable which illustrates the difference between the clerk and the manager—the man of no ambition and the thruster. A clerk is one who knows a great deal about a very little and he goes on knowing more and more about less and less until finally he knows practically everything about nothing. A manager is one who knows a very little about a great deal, and he goes on knowing less and less about more and more until finally he knows practically nothing about everything. Silly, I know, but think it over.

SIR ROBERT DENNISTON, *Kt.*

Other countries have given careful thought to the health of the youth of the Nation, and playing fields are things which might well be in the forefront of the minds of those who are occupied with post-war planning. But surely, some may say, sports are not sufficiently important to merit a place in any scheme of reconstruction. I will refrain from quoting the appropriate Latin Tag, but physical fitness is a not unimportant factor in the youth of a nation, and the comradeship of the cricket field and the football ground does more to develop character than the speeches of all the politicians put together.

LAUGH AT YOURSELVES

And as a panacea for all ills I would recommend all individuals and all Nations to learn to laugh at themselves. Then we shall all think less of prestige and face saving and become quite respectable human beings. Can I act up to my own precepts, you may ask. I will tell you a story. In the early days of the war a young gentleman of advanced views condescended to look upon me as his employer. In the course of censorship routine certain of his letters were intercepted and as the result of the views therein expressed he left the country. A long time afterwards I discovered that in one of his letters he had described me as "Kind but mentally negligible." Perhaps he was right.

—A talk broadcast recently from A.I.R., Madras.

This is an American propaganda notice:—

Our forefathers did without sugar until the thirteenth century, without coal fires until the fourteenth century, without buttered bread until the fifteenth century, without potatoes until the sixteenth, without coffee, tea and soap until the seventeenth, without pudding until the eighteenth, without gas, matches and electricity until the nineteenth, without canned goods until the twentieth, and we have had automobiles for only a few years. . . .

Now, what was it you were complaining about?

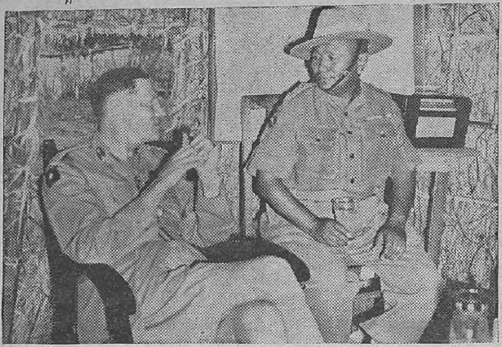
* * *

The American soldier didn't like the food set before him in a restaurant near Piccadilly Circus. The meat was overcooked, the greens waterlogged, and reheated potatoes lukewarm.

He called for his bill, leaving a barely-touched plate on the table. The aged waiter was shocked.

"Wasting food like that!" he said. "Don't you know that food will win the war?"

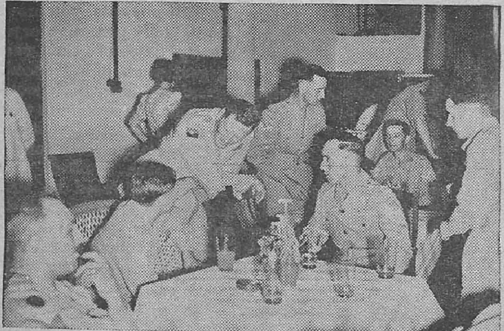
"May be," retorted the American. "But who's gonna get the enemy to eat here?"



The Commander in-Chief chats with Subedar-Major Lakpa Tshering Lama Bahadur, I.O.M. of Tenth Gurkha Rifles.

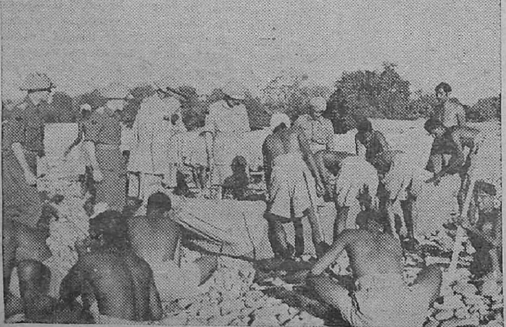
C.-IN-C. VISITS JUNGLE TRAINING UNITS

Indian troops, training in some of the country's wildest jungle, have just been visited in their forest camps by the Commander-in-Chief, India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck. The Commander-in-Chief met many officers, V.C.Os. and N.C.Os. and talked to large numbers of troops on their work.

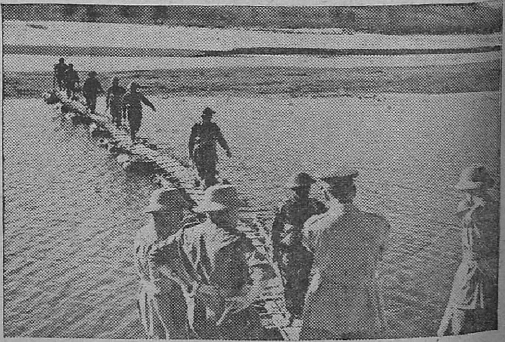


The Commander-in-Chief visited a service canteen and talked to some of the men.

The Commander-in-Chief signing autograph books of the girl prefects at the Lawrence Royal Military School at Sanwar.



The Commander-in-Chief watching troops learning how to improvise boats and rafts from their groundsheets and bamboo.



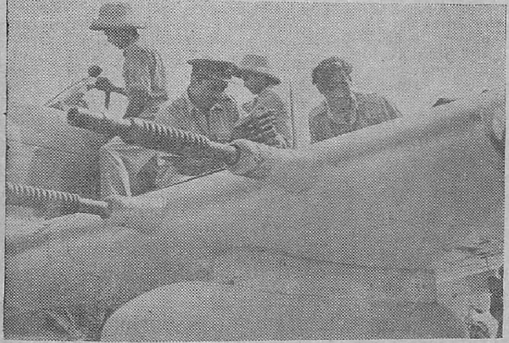
The Commander-in-Chief watching soldiers crossing a river on a pontoon bridge which they have improvised from groundsheets and bamboo.

INDIAN AIR FORCE OVER BURMA

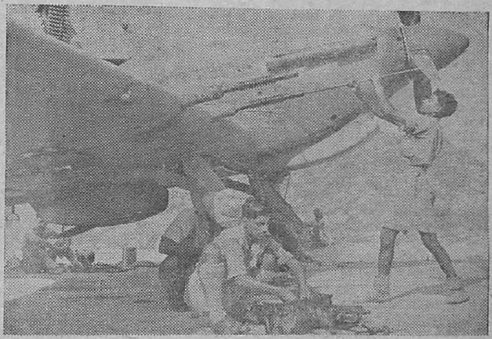
Pictures "exclusive" to *Madras War Review.*

The Indian Air Force has played a very prominent part in the recent operations on the Burma Front. It has been of immense help in pounding the enemy positions as well as in carrying supplies to our forces.

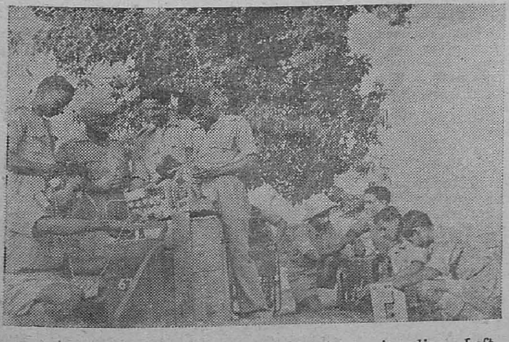
F/O Rao, F/Lt. Herbert P. Gnanolivu the squadron's M O., and F/Lt. R. Raja Ram, all of Madras, with Bonzo, the pet of the squadron.



An Indian Air Force Hurricane Squadron. Here F/O Surendra of Bangalore checks the ammunition load d by the armourers. AC P. M. Nair (Malabar), *LAC C. V. J. Rao* (Bangalore), *AC P. Narasimhulu* (Madras) *and AC Kekre* (Nagpur)



Armament of the "Hurries" have to be regularly and carefully serviced when machines return from a sortie. Here ground crew are engaged in cleaning and re-loading the cannons.



Beneath the spreading mango tree mechanics repair radios. Left to right: *AC Hamza from Malabar, Sgt. Narasingham from Madras, Cpl. Mani Singh from Rawalpindi. P/O Z. A Aziz from Jullundur, signal officer with seven years service, AC Rangiah from Andhra, Sgt Gopalan from Coimbatore, Sgt Joseph from Karachi, LAC Rozario from Bombay. AC Asirvatham from Madras and LAC Satwant Singh from Ferozpur.*

Flight crew arrive at their respective "pens" ready for a sortie. In the group are seen men belonging to different provinces of India and their high spirits are reflected in their cheerful faces. They are eager for action.

ANTI-HOARDING AND PROFITEERING ORDINANCE

By MR. C. C. DESAI, I.C.S.

WHEN the Ordinance was first promulgated, it was the general, if not universal, belief that it would remain a mere paper legislation and that such an omnibus control could not but prove ineffective and impracticable. Difficulties there were and still exist. It would be foolish to ignore them or even to minimise them, but it can be said, without undue optimism, that the fears and misgivings which were entertained at that time have by experience been found to be exaggerated. You would naturally expect me to give you some facts in support of my view and I propose to do so in this talk.

Newspapers bear testimony that cases of hoarding and profiteering are being daily reported, investigated, detected and tried all over the country. There has been no discrimination, racial, political, communal or otherwise, in the selection of persons against whom the law has had to be set in motion. Firms which have been prosecuted include European firms of Calcutta, Lahore and Delhi and some leading Indian firms of Delhi, Lucknow, Lahore, Peshawar, Calcutta, Madras, Cawnpore, Ahmedabad and Bombay. We were told that the public would not be forthcoming with complaints but fortunately this fear has also been proved to be wrong. We are daily receiving complaints from the public, including many ladies and they have obviously not fought shy of lodging information and difficulties of attending courts as witnesses have not deterred victims of profiteering from handing over the guilty greedy. It is not that we receive complaints only from Government servants; it is not that we receive complaints only from Europeans; in fact, we receive complaints from all classes of people, Indian as well as European, rich as well as poor, individuals as well as firms. The Press, which is highly critical of all Government controls, has been extremely sympathetic and helpful in giving publicity to, and in mobilising public opinion in support of, the control measures.

INTERESTING CASES

I have culled a few interesting court cases to show the tightening grip of the Ordinance. In the United Provinces alone, in a single month 217 cases were instituted under the Ordinance. Of these 199 have been decided so far, 168 resulting in convictions. Punishments in the United Provinces have been deterrent and the result has been more reasonable prices in the United Provinces area. In Delhi, 95 cases were registered during a period of 10 weeks. Of these, 28 have already been sent to courts. In some of them, the offenders have been sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment, while in others, heavy fines have been imposed. In a single month, the Bombay Government sanctioned 35 prosecutions under the Ordinance. They included cases of overcharging, refusal to sell, failure to issue a cash memo. and failure to exhibit price lists. The cases were drawn from all over the Province.

Most of the cases decided relate to profiteering. A fine of Rs. 1,000 was imposed on a shopkeeper of Bareilly for charging four annas extra on a packet of cigarettes. A cycle dealer was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 1,200 for charging twelve annas extra for a cycle tube and for refusing to issue a cash memo. A retail dealer in Bombay was fined 3,640 pice for charging *one pice* extra on a box of matches. In another case of overcharging by one pice, a fine of Rs. 700 or in default 2 months rigorous imprisonment was imposed. A merchant at Ferozepur was sentenced to 6 months rigorous imprisonment for selling a piece of leather at double the control price. A dealer in Calcutta has just been sentenced to 3 months rigorous imprisonment for selling some tins of Black and White cigarettes at Rs. 16 per tin against the controlled rate of Rs. 1-14-0. The convictions of the Assistant Manager and Saleswoman of a European firm at Calcutta, for selling a fountain pen at above the controlled rate resulted in the Assistant Manager being fined Rs. 500 and the saleswoman being fined Rs. 100. An agency report from Lucknow recently said that the Ordinance was being rigidly enforced by the authorities over there. Three cases of arrests in a single day were mentioned. At Gorakhpur a boy of 14 figured as the principal accused in a case of profiteering. He was found guilty, but was released under the First Offenders' Act on execution of a bond for better behaviour in future. The proprietor of the shop was awarded a sentence of 4 months and a fine of Rs. 1,000. The offence was the sale of a tin of cigarettes at a profit of more than 100 per cent. It is significant to add that the plea of the proprietor that he was absent from the shop at the time of the sale was of no avail to him. The proprietor of an electrical concern at Madras was sentenced a fortnight ago to undergo 3 months rigorous imprisonment for selling electric bulbs at profits ranging from 450 per cent to 600 per cent. The proprietor of another firm was sentenced to a similar term of imprisonment on a similar charge. The trying magistrate observed, "The accused sold his goods three weeks after purchase at prices which were atrociously in excess of what he had paid. The object of the Ordinance is to put down precisely this sort of gross anti-social conduct."

OFFENCES

Refusal to sell goods and to issue a cash memo are offences under the Ordinance. Observing that refusal to sell was an intolerable offence as it meant that the customer must either yield to the greed of the profiteer or go without the article, a Delhi Magistrate sentenced a dealer to a fine of Rs. 1,000. The dealer had quoted an excessive price for a gramophone record album and on demand of a cash memo, refused to sell the album at all. Similarly, a cycle dealer in another town was arrested for refusing to sell cycle spare parts which he had in stock. A dealer in Cawnpore was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 200 for refusing to issue a bill.

And remember, shop assistants who aid and abet the guilty profiteer and who really act as the agent or the tool of the proprietor, will not escape punishment. A shopkeeper and his assistant at Calcutta were found guilty of selling a tin of boot polish for Rs. 1-8-0 as against the controlled price of As. 9. They were fined Rs. 500 and Rs. 100, respectively. The practice under the Ordinance is to prosecute both the proprietor and the salesman, one as the principal accused and the other as the abetter. I hope the cases related by me are sufficient to carry conviction in any quarter as to the earnestness of Government to enforce this control rigidly and relentlessly.

PRICES HAVE FALLEN

Ceiling prices have been announced under the Ordinance for a large number of consumer goods, such as woollen cloth, fountain pens, cycles and cycle spare parts, photographic materials, cigarettes, artificial silk yarn, cartridges, electric bulbs, razor blades, radio valves and parts, boot polishes and more recently, silk cloth. Prior to the promulgation of the Ordinance, prices had soared more than 300 per cent for almost all these items; they exceeded even 500 per cent in the case of boot polishes, woollen goods and cartridges. The Ordinance aimed at checking this tide of price inflation and at bringing about an appreciable reduction in prices in order to afford relief to the average consumer. The Ordinance has not been without its effect. The upward trend of prices has been definitely arrested and in many cases there has been a fair fall in prices. I have collected figures showing the percentage reduction so far effected over peak prices in the case of a number of items of which ceiling prices have been fixed under the Ordinance. The average reduction in cycles and cycle parts has been 36 per cent; in fountain pens 53 per cent; in woollen goods 54 per cent, in razor blades 55 per cent; in cartridges 55 per cent and boot polishes 62 per cent over the prevailing pre-Ordinance prices. Although these results could not but be viewed with satisfaction, I am free to admit that the current prices are still far above the pre-war levels or above the increases which have been allowed to take place in such countries as the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and South Africa. It is not possible to attain the results achieved in those countries in view of the delay in starting this campaign against profiteering. It would be futile to try to force the prices down too far or too fast until the supply position improves and secondly until there is a corresponding fall in the cost of living all-round.

SQUARE DEAL FOR ALL

The intention of Government, let me emphasise here, is, as announced by the Honourable Member in charge of the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, at the time of the promulgation of the Ordinance, to operate the law in consultation with all interests concerned, particularly the trade and the consumers. We want a square deal

for all. It is obvious that although the bulk of the mercantile community has been guilty of gross profiteering in the past, it serves a vital purpose in the economic life of the country. Without their advice and co-operation no control could be effective, howsoever strong and vigilant the enforcement machinery may be. Accordingly a number of advisory and consultative trade panels have been constituted. They relate to wireless sets, books, woollen goods, silk fabrics, toilet goods, wines, fountain pens, and arms and ammunitions. Two new panels relating to cycles and optical goods have recently been formed. More will be set up as the necessity for them is felt. Government have also set up a Central Consumers' Council composed of prominent non-official men and women.

PUBLIC CO-OPERATION

So far I have spoken of what Government is doing to control the tendency at hoarding and profiteering. I wish, however, to emphasise that all these efforts of Government would be of no avail unless public co-operation is forthcoming and fortunately for us it has been made available in larger and larger measure, wherever we extend our operations. Our biggest headache, of course, is the blackmarket. Here too, public consciousness and public co-operation are the best solvent. The public can co-operate firstly by refusing to buy anything at uncontrolled price except in a grave emergency, and secondly, by giving information of every case in which an unreasonable or uncontrolled price has been charged. Constant vigilance against anti-social elements should be the public watch-word. To prevent leakage of goods into blackmarkets, Government is likely to adopt in the near future a system of controlled distribution of goods, imported as well as indigenous. Consumer goods will be distributed to reliable traders so as to obviate chances of their leakage into blackmarkets or of profiteering. When the scheme is actually launched, I shall explain it in greater detail in my next talk. But blackmarkets will still persist in respect of old stocks. After all, blackmarkets exist in all countries, including even those where public opinion is highly organized. I cling to the belief, even at the risk of being caricatured as an optimist in the Press, that, given public co-operation and public awakening, blackmarket can be reduced to minimum dimensions, in which state it could well be ignored.

AN UPHILL TASK

Such are the facts and I have let them speak for themselves, because there is no better corrective to facile optimism or cynical despondence than hard, proved facts. I have toured extensively all over the country from Shillong in the East to Peshawar in the West, gathering first-hand the reactions of the different interests concerned. There is no gainsaying the fact that the grip of the Ordinance is getting tighter and tighter. Ours is an uphill task, but there will be no relenting, and the Ordinance will be evoked to the requirements of the country, without let or hindrance, without fear or favour.

—*A talk broadcast recently from A.I.R., Bombay.*

MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK

MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK.

YEARS ago, on being asked what was her ambition in life, a moon-faced Chinese girl replied straightaway that she wanted to be a doctor. The questioner must have been a little perplexed, for it was an astonishing reply for a Chinese child at that time. To-day, though not as a doctor, she is known and respected the world over as Madame Chiang Kai-shek, First Lady of China.

Youngest daughter of "Charlie" Soong, a Methodist Minister, Mayling Soong was sent to America for her education. She spent 10 years in the United States.

Returning to China in 1917, Mayling was engaged for some time in social work in Shanghai. She was also on the Film Censorship Committee and the Child Labour Commission the first Chinese to be invited to do so by the Municipal Council.

It was in Shanghai that General Chiang Kai-shek met her and decided to marry her. But her mother's opposition stood in the way. It took 10 years to overcome it and they married in 1927.

Since then she has been his help-mate, confidant, guide and mentor—and his constant companion. She helped him to launch the New Life Movement, aimed at the moral, social and cultural uplift of the masses. She led campaigns to wipe off the old evils of dirt, opium and poverty, and stirred up civic consciousness and social responsibilities. It was hard work, but she never flinched.

Madame Chiang was in Nanking when Chiang went to Sian to suppress a revolt and was kidnapped and held prisoner by Marshal Chang. "As I have made up my mind to sacrifice my life, if necessary, for my country please do not worry for me," he wrote her, "I will never do anything to make my wife ashamed of me."

The thought of freeing him uppermost in her mind, she flew to Sian. Handing over her revolver to their Australian adviser, W. H. Donald, she asked him to shoot her in case they captured her. Chiang was moved to the verge of tears by her courage.

She has braved the worst bombing raids. Once she was thrown clear off her car and lay unconscious in the mud with a broken rib. Nothing, however, daunts her. Seven years of war and she is still at her husband's side, organizing resistance, helping to beat back the ruthless aggressor. And Chinese women have rallied to her call in one great war effort—not only in munitions, hospitals and auxiliary services, but in farming, education, development of industries and natural resources and similar constructive work.

To-day, the child who wanted to be a doctor is helping to heal the war wounds of a nation and to withstand and throw out the ruthless foe.

LONDON ON "D" DAY

By DAVID LOW

A press photographer told me that on "D" Day his assignment was to take pictures of public reactions in London to the news of our successful landings. "After all", he reflected, "in Germany they used to announce the momentous doings of Hitler's war machine with fanfares of trumpets".

Well, he started with the Stock Exchange, he found it pretty much as usual for wartime: a sprinkling of subdued gentlemen carrying on some subdued dealings, no picture. So he went to Leicester Square and Piccadilly Circus, no picture there either. Both places looked strangely empty, which only goes to show how used we've grown to see London full of Yanks and what a hole they leave when they suddenly vanish.

Well, my friend took a taxi, and went to Westminster Abbey a handful of people, no picture. What is this—the famous English phlegm? My photographer friend saw that he hadn't the right idea, so he went and photographed the ducks on St. James's Park Lake.

It seemed that everybody was going about his or her business just as though we were not at the beginning of a crucial phase in history. Bigger queues for the newspapers and later for the news cinemas, but otherwise one might have concluded that nobody was particularly interested.

As a people we entered this war reluctantly, with disgust, cursing Hitler for having laid the job on us with no escape. If we had to do it we had to learn to do it thoroughly; we made mistakes; we had disasters. We've dinned into one another, day and night: "Don't be complacent, don't be complacent". Small wonder then now that we are a bit guarded in our expression of emotion.

—*Condensed from a recent B.B.C. talk.*

"NOT AN EFFECTIVE MILITARY WEAPON"

GOVERNMENT have wisely taken the nation into their confidence without delay on the subject of attacks by the so-called new weapon which the Germans have launched, writes *The Times*. It adds:

Provided that the pilotless aeroplane stays its course without accident or interference, radio operators can count with fair certainty on bringing the missile aeroplane down on a particular county or large city, but that is the limit of their powers.

Failing close and frequent observation of the fall of these contrivances—a difficult, hazardous and costly task for the depleted and hard-pressed Luftwaffe of to-day—it is clearly a matter of pure chance if the enemy inflicts any military damage whatever by this form of attack. Since he will naturally endeavour to obtain all possible information of its results in order to improve his technique and impart some precision to his missiles, it is essential that he should learn nothing.

British fighter pilots examine a German flying bomb shot down in southern England.

LIMIT OF EFFECTIVENESS

Militarily, therefore, the new weapon cannot have the slightest effect on the course of the war. It may inflict a certain degree of loss and injury on the civilian population, but that, so far as can be foreseen, is likely to be the limit of its effectiveness.

The aim of these nuisance raids is, no doubt, to shake the morale of the British public which has never been stronger than to-day and to comfort the German people who, with vast devastated areas in all their great industrial cities and with defeat overtaking them on every front, are urged to cling to the hope that some new weapon may save them from overthrow, which they are at last beginning to foresee.

It is certainly strange that the Germans should have chosen this stage of the war for their experiment. To suppose that the British people, cheered by successes of the Allied forces—and not least their own—on every front, and above all by the successful landings in France will be in any degree shaken by sporadic and random attacks not to be compared with those which they suffered in 1940–41, alone, their allies defeated, their maritime lifelines threatened, is to court derision. The attempt will only increase British determination to make an end of the system which has sedulously employed military terrorism as the chief instrument of its tyrannous political aims.

WILL HARDEN ALLIED FIGHTING TEMPER

It can have no effect on the progress of the Allied armies in France, except that it will harden their fighting temper. It will be rightly interpreted in Allied and neutral countries for what it is—the last exhibition of venom against the island which has stood between the aggressor and his plans.

The Allies have sought in all their air attacks—of which the raid by American Super-Fortresses on Japan is the latest and particularly daring and brilliant example—to inflict maximum military damage. They have understood—the Germans still do not—that terrorism, all other considerations apart, though exercised by the unsparing use of the deadliest German weapons—and the pilotless bomber is not one of these—has had no more at least than a brief and temporary effect on the course of the war.

Thus the ruthless and deliberate bombing of Rotterdam may have hastened by a few days the surrender of the outweaponed and isolated Dutch army, but its only effect on the spirit of the Dutch people was to kindle the deep and abiding anger and resolve to hold out against the usurper by every possible means. That has been the universal reply throughout Europe to the calculated brutality of German methods.

British air-borne troops who made the first landings set their watches before taking off.

ALLIED AIRFIELDS IN FRANCE

By GEORGE FYFE

Royal Air Force ground crew bombing up a Typhoon with rockets on an airstrip in France.

THE Allies are no longer compelled to carry out all their operations from English bases. They are flying from airfields that are in immediate proximity to the enemy.

In effect, the Second Tactical Air Force has opened a fresh beachhead—of the air. This means that the water barrier has been overcome.

Until now all our fighters operating over the Cherbourg Peninsula had to make a comparatively long journey to reach the battle area. Two hundred miles, representing a round trip, were a factor of some importance.

Squadrons which up to a few days ago had to set forth daily from England are now on the spot. They can get in the sky and deal with any urgent call without an instant's delay.

Pilots who took off to-day as usual from an English airfield would find they had no need to return to their starting point. By landing on an airfield in France that has been made for all practical purposes a replica of the one they had left at home, they were overseas for the duration.

This big achievement has been made possible by the gallant R.A.F. servicing commandos, aided by an R.A.F. regiment and other important units like the R.A.F. Signals. On the day of the landings servicing commandos made swiftly for their objectives. Picked men of the R.A.F. Signals performed a remarkable job of first-class importance. Nothing deterred these resolute men.

SPEED AND SKILL

The speed with which they acted and the skill with which they took advantage of their opportunity paved the way for all that has followed. Never previously in air warfare have ground forces put up a more magnificent show on behalf of pilots.

To appreciate the extent of our achievement in establishing airfields so quickly it is necessary to bear in mind the vast complicated organization of a modern air station. In peacetime it might have taken weeks or months to transfer it. In war it has been done within a few days, without the slightest interference with the smooth running of the machine.

Ability to operate from the new airfields is a very practical demonstration of the superiority we have gained and no one could be prouder at being chosen to lead in this new set-up than the small army of Canadian pilots concerned. They belong to a crack fighter sector and all are members of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Spitfires were selected as the best possible type of aircraft for the work in hand. These pilots, one or two of whom played their part in the Battle of Britain, have noteworthy records. With a highly experienced commander in the person of Group Capt. W. R. MacBrien at their head, with wings led by some of the greatest air fighters of the war, they are as fearless as they are efficient.

Daily Telegraph.

R. A. F. TRANSPORT COMMAND EVACUATE THE WOUNDED FROM FRANCE—Aircraft of R.A.F. Transport Command fly supplies to France and return to Britain with battle casualties.

Picture shows *an army stretcher case being loaded into an R.A.F. Douglas Dekota transport for the air journey to England.*

The Nazi leaders were playing contract bridge in Hitler's mountain retreat.

"Three diamonds," said Goering.

"No bid," said Goebbels.

"Five diamonds," said von Ribbentrop.

"One club," said Hitler.

"Pass"

"Pass"

"Pass."

MOUNTING THE ATTACK

[This is the continuation of the article "Planning and Mounting the Assault" published in the last week's issue.]

We have so far surveyed briefly the elaborate planning and organization which had to be carried out in order to ensure that when the Assault Force had effected a landing, its reinforcement and maintenance should not suffer from any failure of supplies. Before going on to a description of the actual administrative mechanism which had to be put into operation to launch the assault, a word must be said about the work which had to be performed by Home Commands and Districts (the basic military organization in Britain) in connection with the preparation of the "springboard"—that is the concentration and marshalling areas from which the Expeditionary Forces would proceed to their allotted embarkation points.

TASKS OF HOME COMMANDS

In the first place, Command staffs had to arrange for the provision of requisitioned buildings or tented camps—involving much work by the R.E. and Pioneer Corps—for the reception of each "invasion" division on its arrival in the concentration area. On completion of its journey, undertaken partly by road and partly by rail in accordance with the timetable arranged by "Movements" and involving the provision of staging camps for road parties en route, each division had to be provided with special instructions, giving a guide to all local supply depots and welfare facilities.

In the concentration area, as already stated, formations drew supplies and did their own cooking in the normal way, but an immense amount of detailed work had to be done by Commands in executing the plans for feeding greatly increased numbers of troops and in seeing that all discrepancies in equipment and stores were made good, all boots "vetted", and all vehicles brought up to full-scale. At this stage, moreover, the waterproofing of vehicles had to be carried out—an aspect of assault organization which may appropriately be dealt with at this point, and which brings us to the work of yet another branch—the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

WATERPROOFING

As already indicated, an essential part of the plan of attack was the assault of beaches and the maintenance of the attacking Force over them for an indeterminate period. This meant that many thousands of mechanical vehicles had to be waterproofed. Secondly, mechanical provision had to be made for the employment of numerous special weapons designed for the assault; and, lastly, steps had to be taken to ensure, so far as is humanly possible, that the progress of the mechanical equipment of the attacking forces from concentration area to marshalling area and from marshalling area to embarkation point was not impeded either by the breakdown of vehicles or by road blocks caused through damage to vehicles by enemy air attack.

Though the solution to the first problem—the landing of vehicles over a beach—was found in the single word "waterproofing", the development of the technique of waterproofing presented intricate problems which the Directorate of Mechanical Engineering had to solve.

As all motorists are aware, a car with a reasonable clearance can safely negotiate a shallow water-splash and a standard 3-ton lorry, provided it is carefully driven, can proceed through freshwater of greater depth. For the purposes, however, of an amphibious operation, not merely was it necessary to scope with the corrosive effects of seawater, but tanks and other vehicles would have to be driven ashore from landing craft through water which might be rough and whose depth might well exceed the capacity of a vehicle not specially adapted.

The problem of waterproofing, moreover, must not be thought of solely in terms of normal fighting and supply vehicles. The task had also to be accomplished of waterproofing the vulnerable contents of an immense list of special vehicles ranging from office trucks to self-propelled artillery.

Many hundreds of R.E.M.E. personnel had to be dispersed in concentration and marshalling areas to deal with water-proofing and the task of urgent recovery and repair of vehicles which might develop mechanical faults or be damaged by enemy action on the way to the embarkation point. In addition, much work, of which it is not yet possible to write, had to be done by the R.E.M.E. for many months past in making special modifications to vehicles required by the plan of attack, and in the fitting to specially adapted vehicles of special weapons and devices for use in the assault.

After this digression, it is time to return to the sea-ward movement of the attacking force, with whose well-being Home Commands and Districts had still much to do.

To be ready for the movement of troops from their concentration areas to the marshalling areas in which preparation for embarkation had to be done, an elaborate traffic control system had to be worked out by Commands and Districts. Along each main road control points had to be established—linked by telephone with ambulance posts and vehicle recovery posts (for breakdowns), and with Civil Defence Headquarters, in case enemy action should render any road temporarily impassable. In the Commands concerned, the strength of the military police had to be more than doubled for traffic control duties, and each man "on point" had to be specially trained and briefed for his task.

Finally, when Movements set going the flow of formations from concentration to marshalling areas, Command Headquarters had to work out details, a day ahead, for all the road convoys and rail parties involved. This planning was done in a control room at each Command Headquarters, where civil police, railways and all sides of Civil Defence were represented. Provision had to be made for many contingencies the breakdown of vehicles necessitating replacement from Command stocks; casualties of personnel, through accident or sickness, which must be made good from a specially organized local reinforcement pool; the bombing of a convoy; the last minute mislaying of a field dressing or small, but essential piece of equipment. In the Control Room, an illuminated map showed the progress of every convoy along the road in its passage to the demarcation line between concentration area and marshalling area—a line represented by what are known as "Road Convoy Regulating Points".

THE WORK OF SIGNALS

This is perhaps an appropriate place at which to interpolate a not on the immense work which had to be done by the Royal Corps of Signals in preparing for the assault. They had not to meet the demands of the British Army, but also had to plan and execute (with the loyal collaboration of the G.P.O.'s depleted staff), the greatly expanded network required for the U.S. Forces in the United Kingdom, and for the communications of Supreme Headquarters. This involved the putting into operation, since 1942, of thousands of new circuits, and the installation of millions miles of telephone wire.

Of particular importance, in order to ensure that no bottlenecks developed through faulty communications, was the provision of an elaborate communications network in the concentration and marshalling areas. At the Headquarters of each marshalling area, a considerable telephone exchange had to be established, with a smaller exchange in each subsidiary headquarters in the camp. Moreover, as a means of giving instructions to troops as to marshalling arrangements, the Signal Corps had to provide and man many scores of static and mobile loud-speaker equipments in the marshalling area.

MARSHALLING THE FORCE

The reasons why special marshalling areas had to be provided for the operations have already been adumbrated, but call now for perhaps fuller explanation. In the case of the despatch of an army on a long overseas voyage which is to end in an attack (for instance, the expedition of the First Army to North Africa), large ocean-going transports are employed, on some of which a complete Brigade can be accommodated. The final tactical dispositions of the troops for an assault performed by landing craft are, in fact, made on board ship. For shore-to-shore attacks, however, the tactical leading of the assault craft has be done before embarkation.

This principle, as has been shown, is that the first wave of the assault should land as far as possible in the form of self-supporting combat teams. Furthermore, even in the case of following "flights", it is desirable that risks from enemy action during the passage should

be spread by distributing among the assault craft infantry, gunners, sappers, and so forth, so that whatever casualties might occur during the passage—it would still be a "balanced" assault force, its parties trained to regroup quickly into their own formations, which reached the enemy shore. And this applied also to subsequent "build-up" personnel and material.

Accordingly, the function of the marshalling area mechanism—known popularly to Movements staffs as the "mincing machine"—is to break up units (battalions armoured squadrons, batteries and so forth) into unit parties, varying numbers of which will make up a craft load.

Many months before 'D' Day for the assault was even approximately fixed, much work had to be done in the planning and organization of the mashalling areas, whose various sizes depended on the capacity of the embarkation area they were to serve. Their sites had to be selected—not too far from embarkation points to cause mechanical difficulties for water-proofed vehicles; their lay-out must be as inconspicuous as possible to the eyes of reconnoitring enemy aircraft, yet not so small as to cramp movement or cause congestion unduly vulnerable to enemy air attack. Many problems of sanitation and water-supplies had to be overcome, and many new roads built or improved, before work began on the construction of the many tented and hutted camps which were required. In this work and in the construction of camps and vehicle standings, the number of Pioneer Corps personnel employed ran, at the peak, to many thousands.

"HOTEL SERVICE"

It will have been noted that, as they pass into marshalling camps, formations and units lose their identity and become simply "parties", the serially numbered components of craft loads. That is, they are no longer self-supporting as they were in the concentration area: they lack means to draw and cook rations. Each camp, therefore, had to be provided with a staff drawn from troops of Home Forces, to provide the men of the assault Force with "hotel service", as well as to control their tactical movement. A single camp, capable of containing, say, 2,500 men at one time had to be manned by a "hotel staff" of a dozen officers and 400 other ranks, including 60 cooks—not a large number when it is remembered that troops would be entering and leaving the camp at all hours of the day and night and that meals on arrival and departure would be called for, as well as the regular service of three hot meals a day.

Within the camp, apart from the small Control Staff of officers and other ranks working under the orders of Movements, guides had to be provided, no matter how carefully each camp was signposted; for units would frequently arrive in the dark, and the essence of the mounting scheme was that not a moment's unnecessary delay should occur. Special huts or tents capable of containing a large map model had also to be installed for "briefing". Then, too, in the marshalling areas, as well as in the concentration areas, a carefully balanced organization was necessary for providing casualty replacements either of men and material, and for the issue of various rations—"Lending", "Emergency" and "Bag"—described in an earlier section. Here, too, arrangements had to be made for the early despatch to the assault forces of special packs devised by N.A.A.F.I. to meet needs until Expeditionary Force Institutes could be established overseas.

THE MECHANISM OF MOVEMENT

As has been shown, the staffs of Home Commands and Districts were responsible, within the centralized Movement plan, for executing movements in detail from concentration areas down to Road Convoy Regulating Points. From there to the marshalling area, Movement Control—a local embodiment of the Q (Movements) Branch of the War Office—became responsible for the reception of troops into the marshalling camps, their conversion into craft loads and the movement of these craft loads to embarkation points. Two further subdivisions ("Sector" and "Embarkation") of Movement Control were responsible for traffic at the "hards" and for embarkation of the Force and its assault vehicles into craft, for each of which a Unit Sheet and Ship Sheet had to be devised and prepared in advance. The Unit Sheet would show the battalion, battery or squadron Commander exactly how to split his unit into parties for embarkation in different craft, while the Ship Sheet would show the craft load Commander (who is to be distinguished from the naval Commander of the vessel) exactly what unit parties would go to make up his command.

To co-ordinate the whole movement, not merely from marshalling area to craft, but seawards right from the concentration area, an Inter-Service organization was devised bearing the name of "Build-up Control". This body had three constituent elements—three heads and antennæ. One was "Turnround Control"—a naval staff organization whose responsibility was the execution of "Build-up Control's" plans in terms of assault craft and shipping movement; the second was "Movement Control", with its marshalling area, "Sector" and "Embarkation" subsidiaries. The third was a detachment of the staff of the Force Commander, whose task it would be to acquaint the Force Commander with the progress of movement, and convey his wishes to the other constituents of "Build-up Control". Their job—a day-long, night-long labour based on a great pin-pointed map showing hourly dispositions of assault craft, freight and personnel ships, naval escorts, and locations of concentrated and marshalled troops—was to execute the Commander's intentions within the limits of movement practicability.

For the first "flight" of the assault, craft could, of course, be pre-loaded at comparative leisure in accordance with plans (known as "loading tables") prepared long in advance by Brigade and unit staffs, showing detailed tactical loading requirements to fit the needs of the plan of attack. In the case, however, of the "follow-up" and "build-up" forces, a flexible mechanism—much trickier for staffs—had to be evolved to permit of variations required by the development of the battle overseas, or unforeseen shipping losses. Accordingly, though a provisional priority list for the despatch of successive formations would have been drawn up before the event in accordance with the Force Commander's wishes, a system (in which spare marshalling sub-areas played a leading part) had to be devised for controlling and, if necessary, modifying movement as the situation demanded. It is over this system that "Build-up Control" have been exercising unremitting supervision; and the job which it has to perform will continue for many days as the assault forces pass on their journey from concentration camps in the green fields of England to the dust of battle across the sea.

THE LANDING

After the sea passage, the landing—led by the first assault waves of infantry and sappers, and followed by supporting troops. Behind them again, would come the "follow-up" forces and the leading convoys of maintenance ships whose pre-loading has been described, and on board which are specially trained R.E. personnel organized by the Transportation Branch for the working of derricks and ship-to-shore barges.

Meanwhile, on shore an elaborately planned organization would have begun to take shape, consisting of Beach Groups and their various detachments. These detachments—sailors, soldiers and mariners—include personnel whose task it is to erect signs identifying each beach, marking on each the safe limits of landing and indicating wrecks, unexpected shoals and other obstructions. Other parties would immediately reconnoitre areas for the disembarking troops to assemble and reform in tactical order, and for vehicles to be sorted out. All these areas have to be marked by standardized signs.

At the same time, other parties would be setting up signal centres with wireless communication to the forward troops and to the Assault Force headquarters. Then would come the stores—Ordnance, Engineering, R.A.S.C. and Medical. For each of these a particular section of the beach would have been pre-allocated, its location being roughly determined beforehand from maps and aerial photographs.

The whole of the organization of the beach would be under the control of the officer designated—the "Beach Commander". He lands immediately after the first wave of the assault troops, and is responsible for seeing that each specialized section, either of personnel or stores, finds, as it lands, its right place in the beach area, and that it does not impede other sections as they come in and start on their tasks.

It was here, on beaches swept by enemy fire, in an assault against the strongest defence system ever constructed, that the test had to come of the efficacy of months and years of

planning, training, organization and rehearsals. The design born in the minds of men who saw the beaches of Dunkirk sink despondently below the horizon had in due season become an actuality. A British Army had begun its return to a Continent where, thirty years ago, British soldiers had striven with Allies in the cause of freedom.

POSTSCRIPT

The record, however, would be incomplete if a tribute were not paid to the many men and women, not in the Regular Army, who contributed to the preparations for the attack.

PLACE AUX DAMES

Personnel of the A.T.S. serving with the R.A.S.C., R.A.O.C., and R.E.M.E. were responsible for much of the work which had to be done in building up of reserve depots and assault depots in Britain, and for the despatch and transport of stores from depot to ship. On them—to give only a few instances—fell many tasks in the packaging of stores, in making vehicles with identification signs, and in installing and testing wireless sets and other electrical equipment. Heavy calls, too, were made on A.T.S. personnel in the course of the great expansion of signal communications in the United Kingdom which arose from the needs of the assault. Finally, to give one more example, 90 per cent of the staff of the Army Blood Supply Depot was drawn from A.T.S. personnel, who worked night and day shifts during the past six months preparing special containers and outfits to be dropped by parachute.

THE HOME GUARD

Long since, the Home Guard, formed originally to co-operate with the Regular forces in resisting an expected enemy invasion, had begun to fulfil a new function—that of releasing regular forces for operations overseas. The part which the Home Guard has thus played by supplying gun teams to supplement the regular personnel of heavy A.A. batteries, and by manning certain coast defence artillery, is familiar.

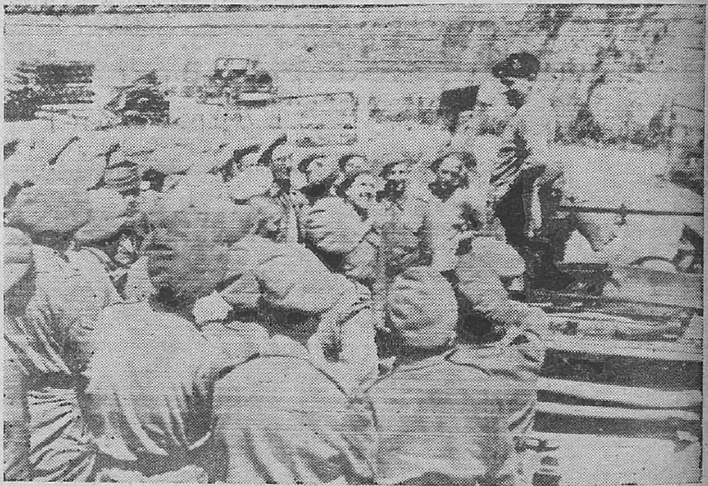
During the mounting, however, of the attack on Western Europe, there fell upon the Home Guard a special responsibility. The possibility always existed that the enemy might endeavour, by air-borne attack on concentration areas or loading ports, to bring about a dislocation of our preparations at a moment when the Expeditionary Force was being marshalled for its special purpose and was therefore not grouped tactically for defence, and when many trained men in the Home Forces divisions were temporarily diverted to special roles in speeding the mechanism for the despatch of the assault Force.

This meant that, while the assault was being prepared, the Home Guard in the areas of Britain particularly concerned had to be on extra duty in very many different ways. It would be impossible to give a generalised picture for each town and village. In one large town the Home Guard might be largely employed on rocket batteries. In another, their principal task might be to guard a railway viaduct or big ammunition store. In yet another it might be to patrol a stretch of open moorland suitable as a dropping zone for a small air-borne attack.

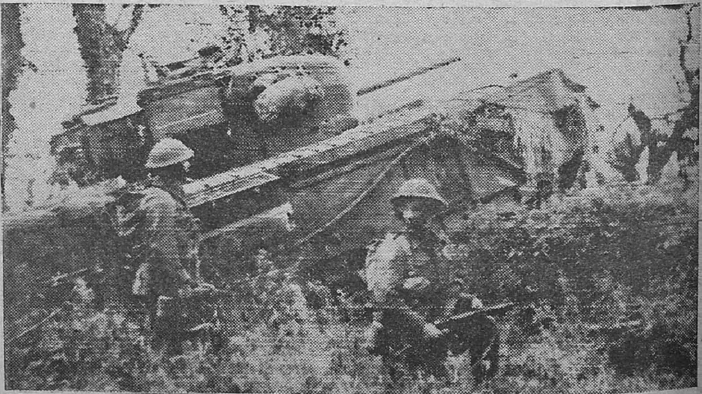
All this state of readiness and training could only be achieved by careful planning and administration. To organize an instrument of defence out of the spare time of thousands of men of different occupations, leaving them free and fit to carry on essential work, was not easy. It was done.

ONE AND ALL

When attention turns from A.T.S. and Home Guard to others who contributed to the mounting of the assault, comprehensive mention becomes impossible. There were the civil police on whose shoulders added security tasks were laid, the N.F.S. and the many Civil Defence workers. There were the merchant seamen, railwaymen, road and transport drivers and dockers, without whom the army could not have been despatched. There were the farmers who, unprotesting, gave their land for training and rehearsal; the G.P.O. staffs who gladly shouldered increased toil; the anonymous millions who cheerfully accepted billetting of troops, bans on access to cherished coasts, restricted train facilities and domestic coal shortages caused by the mobilisation of so much coastal tonnage for the assault.



General Montgomery stops his car for a roadside talk with British pioneers working near Louvers and gives them the latest news of the battle.



A Churchill tank covering infantry crashes through a hedge during the British attack between Tilly and Caen on June 28.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

5TH JULY.—German flying bombs continued to hit places in Southern England.

Hitler had a conference with his officers.

6TH JULY.—Mr. Churchill made a statement about the flying bomb.

Flying bombs continued to attack places in Southern England. Allied aircraft attacked flying bomb bases.

American bombers attacked targets in North-West Germany.

Field Marshal Von Kluge took over the Supreme Command in the west from Field Marshal Von Rundstedt.

7TH JULY.—Flying bomb raids on Southern England continued.

Allied aircraft attacked objectives in West and Central Germany.

8TH JULY.—German flying bombs continued their raids on Southern England.

Berlin was heavily bombed last night. About 114 German planes were destroyed.

Dr. Goebbels in a speech said "The German nation is in danger."

9TH JULY.—The Germans sent more flying bombs over Southern England and London area. The battle against flying bomb menace continued.

Britain's Civil Defence system was operating against flying bombs like 'clock-work' said Mr. Herbert Morrison, Home Secretary.

Last night Royal Air Force bombers attacked objectives in Ruhr.

10TH JULY.—General Eisenhower made a statement on the flying bomb.

Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt issued a joint statement on U-boat warfare.

Allied aircraft raided Buer last night.

11TH JULY.—Flying bombs continued to attack places in Southern England.

General Eisenhower made a statement on the task ahead.

Last night Berlin was bombed. More than 1,100 bombers attacked Munich to-day.

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

7TH JULY.—The United States Acting Secretary of War, Mr. Robert R. Patterson, said that America and Britain are building up a fire power "on and over Europe" four times greater than Germany's.

11TH JULY.—President Roosevelt indicated at his press conference that he would accept renomination and would serve a fourth term if elected.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

5TH JULY.—There was scattered fighting at points around Ukhrul.

It is revealed that Admiral Mountbatten paid a visit to the Assam-Burma front.

6TH JULY.—Japs withdrew from Siruhi, Shongphel and Dongsum.

7TH JULY.—Japs still holding out in the northern outskirts of Ukhrul offered fierce resistance.

8TH JULY.—There was great enemy activity east of Palel.

9TH JULY.—The Japs abandoned Shorbung, Preyatemei and Nagatan.

10TH JULY.—All organized enemy resistance at Ukhrul ceased.

11TH JULY.—A considerable number of small battles took place in the Ukhrul area. Allied troops captured Ougshim. There was heavy fighting near Chepu.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

5TH JULY.—The Red Army forces captured Molodechno.

6TH JULY.—The Russian troops captured Kovel and Rakov.

7TH JULY.—The Red Army pushed towards Vilna.

8TH JULY.—The Soviet troops captured *Baranovichi*, Lyubcha, Gorodische and 150 localities. There was street fighting in Vilna.

9TH JULY.—The Red Army captured Lida. The liberation of Baltic States began. Russian troops captured several towns in Lithuania.

10TH JULY.—The Soviet troops captured Lunintes, Solnim, Pitkaranth.

11TH JULY.—The Red Army crossed into Latvia.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

5TH JULY.—Despite German resistance Allied progress continued.

A recent photograph of Marshal Tito with his Chief of Staff, Major-General Arsa Yovanovich.

Pilot Officer C. J. Barton, Royal Air Force Voluntary Reserve, who has been posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery in pressing home a bombing attack on Nuremburg.

6TH JULY.—The Eighth Army threatened the road to Florence.

7TH JULY.—The Fifth Army occupied two-thirds of Rosignano.

8TH JULY.—Allied troops completely occupied Rosignano and Castellina.

British submarines sunk 11 enemy vessels during recent patrols in the Mediterranean and Aegean waters.

9TH JULY.—The Allied troops captured Volterra.

10TH JULY.—The Eighth Army's ring round Arezzo was tightened.

It is revealed that General Alexander paid a short visit to Britain to consult Mr. Churchill and the Military Chiefs.

It is announced that the Italian Government in returning to Rome.

11TH JULY.—The Eighth Army presure along a hundred-mile front made new penetrations north-east of Siena. The Polish troops tightened the ring round Ancona.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND THE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

5TH JULY.—American troops entered La Haye du Puits.

6TH JULY.—Allied troops gained ground in Foret de Mont Castre, east of La Haye. Americans captured three villages in Cherbourg area.

7TH JULY.—United States troops opened an attack across the Vire river and also captured Aire. The battle for La Haye du Puits continued.

General De Gaulle reached Washington. He declared "The year 1944 will not pass without the last German in France being killed, captured or chased from our soil."

8TH JULY.—The British launched a great attack north-west of Caen. Three villages Herouville, Gruchy and Buron were captured. Americans captured St. Jean.

9TH JULY.—Allies captured *Caen* and La Haye du Puits.

10TH JULY.—The British troops captured Brittevilla Sur Odon and Mesnil. The American forces captured St. Enag.

General De Gaulle made a statement on his talks with President Roosevelt.

11TH JULY.—The Allied troops captured Louvigny, Hant Verney and Le Mesnil-Angot. The Germans stiffened their resistance in several sectors.

President Roosevelt said that the United States has decided to recognize the French Committee of National Liberation as *de facto* authority and Government in liberated areas of France pending elections.

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THE FAR EAST

5TH JULY.—United States planes bombed Puogima and Hahajima. Allied advance continued in Saipan and Noemfoor.

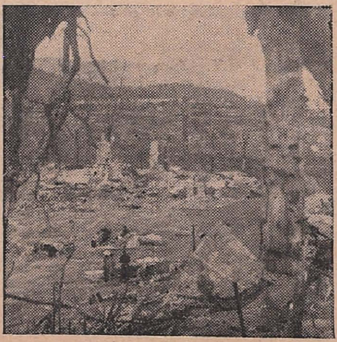
The United States Navy Secretary announced that 17 more Jap ships were sunk in the Pacific by United States submarines.

During recent patrols in far Eastern waters, British submarines have sunk 9 enemy supply ships.

6TH JULY.—It is announced that Americans captured Koransoren airfield in Noemfoor on 4th July.

THE KOHIMA BATTLE.—War has swept through beautiful Kohima, now a mass of ruins. The Naga village captured by British and Indian troops after six weeks' fierce fighting is an example of the devastation.

The deserted Naga village of Kohima. corrugated iron houses and shops lie in ruins.



FIRST PICTURES FROM BATTLE-SCARRED KOHIMA.—Grim evidence of the bitter fighting that raged through Kohima on the Assam Burma front is brought by these pictures, first to come out of the frontier town recently recaptured from Japanese hands.

A general view of the District Commissioner's destroyed bungalow.

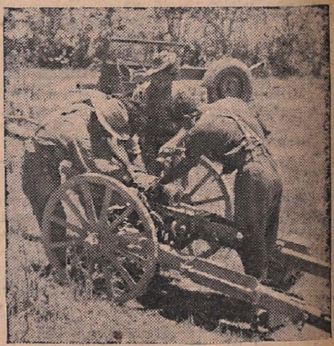
7TH JULY.—Super Fortresses attacked Sasebo, Yawata and Omura in the mainland of Japan.

United States troops occupied Manim Island off Noemfoor on July 5.

Japanese forces have begun a general retreat on the Hunan and Honan fronts. President Roosevelt made a statement on war against Japan.

General Chiang Kai-shek issued a message to the nation on 7th anniversary of the war against Japan. Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt sent greetings.

8TH JULY.—The American forces continued to advance in Saipan. American planes attacked Guam, Rota, Truk, Atoll, Milli, Jaluit, Taros and Wotje.



MORE JAP GUNS CAPTURED ON IMPHAL FRONT.—British and Indian troops are fighting stern battles against the Japs in the difficult country adjoining the Imphal plain. Accurate gunnery has helped our infantry to capture many Jap strong points.

Re-assembling a captured Jap 75 mm. mountain gun after removal from a hill.

9TH JULY.—The conquest of Saipan was completed. Organized enemy resistance ended.

10TH JULY.—Allied bombers attacked Guam, Pota and Tinian islands yesterday.

10TH JULY.—President Roosevelt and Vice-President, Wallace conferred to-day for two hours at Washington. After leaving the White House, Mr. Wallace said: "We had a very lengthy and important conference about China." He described the situation there as "very grave."

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